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KEARSLEY
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Reports

for 1918,

BY

J. C. EAMES, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health,

AND

GEORGE WALSH,

Inspector of Nuisances.



Issued by the
Kearsley Urban District Council,

May, 1919.

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Medical Officer's Report.

BARNFIELD HOUSE,

STONECLOUH,

NR. MANCHESTER,

May 13th, 1919.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Kearsley District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I am sorry my Annual Report on the health of the district is the worst for many years. This is entirely due to the epidemic of Influenza from which we, like the rest of the country, have suffered. Other infectious diseases have been remarkably rare.

The Births again shew a serious decline in number and the Infant Mortality is again too high.

For the third year it has been impossible to take action under the Housing and Town Planning Acts, or as regards the conversion of Privy Middens into Water Closets, owing to the want of labour. There has also been a total stoppage of building new houses from the same cause.

The number of Deaths in the district during 1918 was 152, male 88, female 64, against 134 in 1917. This gives a rate of 17·5 per 1000, per annum, calculated on the Registrar General's statistics, against 15 in 1917. That for the whole of England and Wales was 17·6. Bronchitis and Pneumonia as usual head the list of causes, 29 being due to them against 16 in 1917; Influenza comes next with 17 against 0; Heart Disease follows with 13 against 16; Cancer with 10, against 6; Congenital Debility with 8, as

in 1917; Phthisis 7, against 8; Nephritis 6, against 4; Diarrhœa 2, as in 1917; Whooping Cough 2; Enteric 1, as in 1917. No deaths from Measles, against 11, Scarlet Fever or Diphtheria.

The Births were 179—90 male, 89 female, against 198 in 1917. This in the Registrar General's figures, gives a rate per 1000 of 18.4, again our lowest. Of these 166 were legitimate, and 13 not. The increase of the population was thus only 27, against 63 in 1917, 62 in 1916. The Birth Rate is just half that of 1885, when I gave my first report. It is true that the Death Rate has also largely declined, but our average increase of population was then 130 to 150.

The Infant Mortality or proportion of deaths of children under one year to 1,000 births was 122, against 101 in 1917, and an average for ten years of 143.

The Zymotic Rate for the seven principal infectious diseases was very good, being only 0.57, against 1.56 in 1917 and an average for ten years of 1.85. The absence of Autumnal Diarrhœa or outbreak of Measles being the cause. The Phthisis rate keeps about the same .80 against .88.

The Notifications were remarkably few, only 37 in place of 238 in 1917. This is chiefly due to the falling off in Measles, there being 209 in 1917. There were notified 8 cases each of Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 7 of Scarlet Fever, 6 of Erysipelas, 3 of Diphtheria, 2 each of Enteric Fever and Measles, and one of Ophthalmia. Only one, a case of Enteric, was removed to hospital and died there. Your Nuisance Inspector visited all these and pointed out the necessity of isolation and other precautions required. Twelve specimens of Sputum, and two of blood were sent to Professor Delepine, and reported on by him.

Our first case of Influenza was in July, but the disease did not become serious till October and November, and it ceased in December. The deaths were chiefly of males, there being 12, against 5 females. This may be due to their being more exposed to cold and wet, and neglect of taking due precautions. We sent circulars out early, giving caution and advice, but at the end of October thought it advisable also to order the closure of all schools for three weeks.

As regards the chief wants of the district they remain as before ; the conversion of the Privy Middens into Water Closets, and the building of larger and a better type of houses. I believe that now labour is getting available these will be attended to.

I remain,

Yours truly,

J. C. EAMES.



Kearsley Urban District Council.

Inspector of Nuisances' Report.

COUNCIL OFFICE,

KEARSLEY, 1919.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Kearsley District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

In submitting to you my Eighteenth Annual Report, I wish to state that a large portion of the undermentioned work has been carried out through my visiting the owners or persons responsible for the sanitary condition of the premises, and pointing out the necessity of the work required to be done. In a great many cases the work has been carried out without the necessity of serving legal notices.

As authorised by the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, Water Closets are now required to all new property. In all cases where additional closet accommodation is required for existing houses, Water Closets are being insisted upon.

During the year 172 nuisances of various kinds were remedied. Owing to the shortage of labour, considerable difficulty is experienced in getting work done at the present time.

For particulars of Infectious Diseases refer to the Medical Officer of Health's Report.

I have visited all cases of Infectious Disease reported as early as possible, and given printed and verbal instructions as to the proper means of isolation of the patients; also as to the disinfection of clothing and surroundings, and carried out any instructions of the Medical Officer. At the termination of each case the house was fumigated, and all necessary steps taken to prevent the spread of the disease.

Careful attention has been paid to the drains, privies, and milk supply, and defects found have been remedied.

Food Inspection.

Slaughter Houses, Fish, Fruit, and Butchers' Shops have been regularly inspected. The fore-quarter of one carcase of beef, weighing six score, three pounds, was condemned as unfit for food, and destroyed.

Factories and Workshops.

These have been inspected at intervals, and no cause for complaint was found.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops.

These have been regularly inspected.

Your obedient servant,

G. WALSH,

Inspector of Nuisances.

